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ABSTRACT

A questionnaire was sent to each state occupational coordinating committee in the 50 states asking for information about certification/recertification requirements for postsecondary vocational teachers. Information was provided by 43 states, and a brief summary of this information for each state responding is included in this report. In addition, it was determined that ERIC and the Council of State Governments may contain information about licensing requirements for vocational education teachers. It was also reported that a source of information on vocational teacher certification requirements is available in the "Personnel Development Notebook" published by the Personnel Development Branch, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education. This Notebook presents the vocational education teacher certification requirements for all states and territories. Information was collected and reported in the Notebook in five major categories: relevant education, special or specific courses, relevant occupational experience, teaching experience, and license. Because of the recent publication of this comprehensive document, this report does not attempt to reproduce the results but rather refers the reader to the publishing agency. (KC)

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BRIEF SUMMARIZATION OF STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION/RECERTIFICATION OF POSTSECONDARY VOCATIONAL TEACHERS

Jane N. Ryland

May 1981

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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SHEEO/NCES Communication Network

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Introduction

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education, as a part of a study of certification of vocational teachers at the postsecondary education level, asked the SHEEO/NCES Communication Network to collect material related to the requirements for certification and recertification of vocational teachers. State Network representatives were asked for copies of any studies which might have been conducted which would indicate if the national trend was toward or away from such certification requirements. In any case, copies of certification/recertification criteria used in the state were requested, as were copies of procedures related to certification.

The request for existing information was sent to the Network on February 18, 1981 (see Appendix A for copy of request), and a copy of the request was sent to each state occupational information coordinating committee. By mid-April, responses had been received from 43 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Figure 1. shows the states responding to the request for information. A brief summarization of the responses is provided in this report.

STATE RESPONSES TO REQUEST FOR
INFORMATION ON VOCATIONAL TEACHER CERTIFICATION

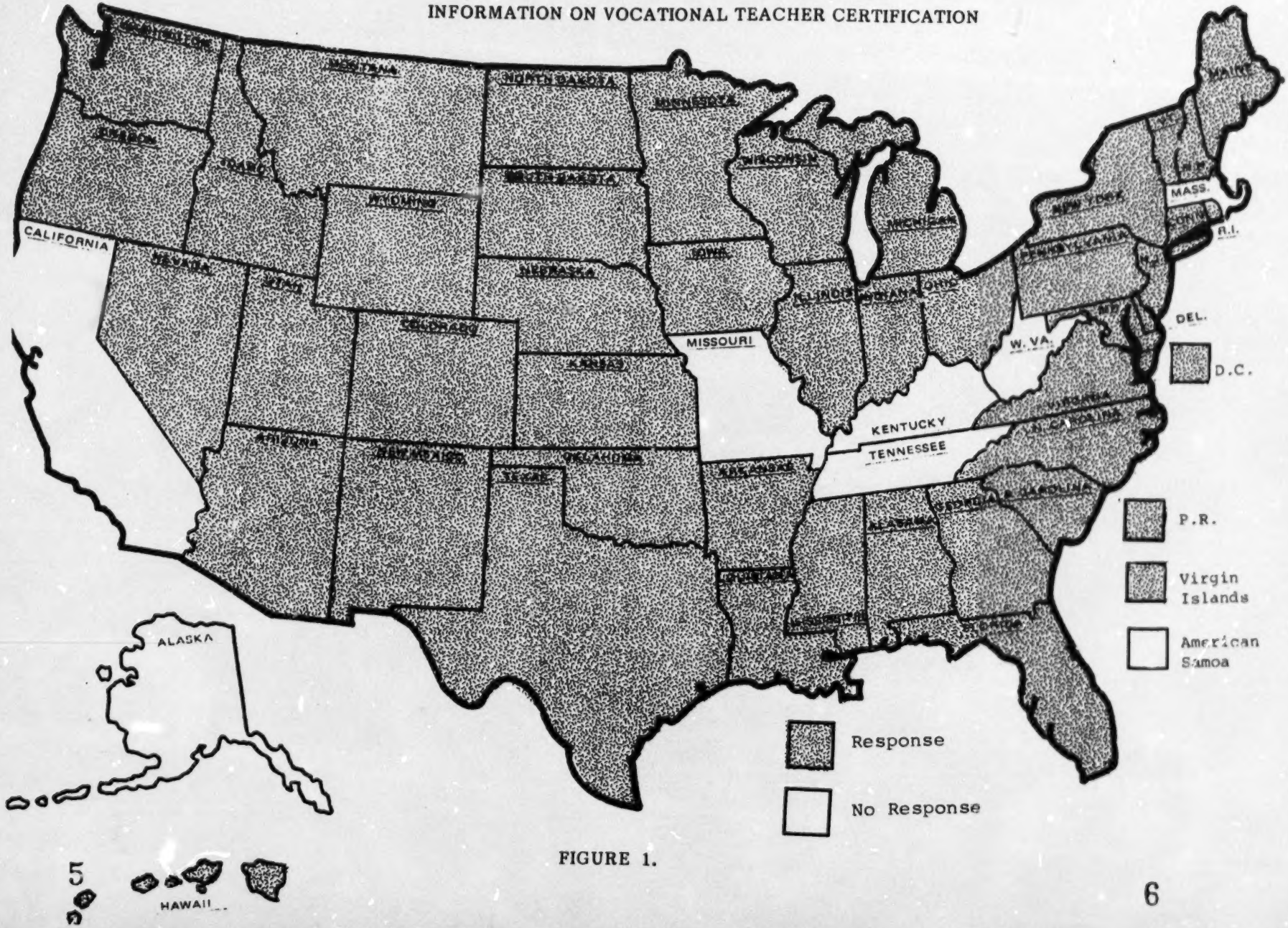

FIGURE 1.

STATES SUBMITTING MATERIAL ON CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR SECONDARY VOCATIONAL TEACHERS

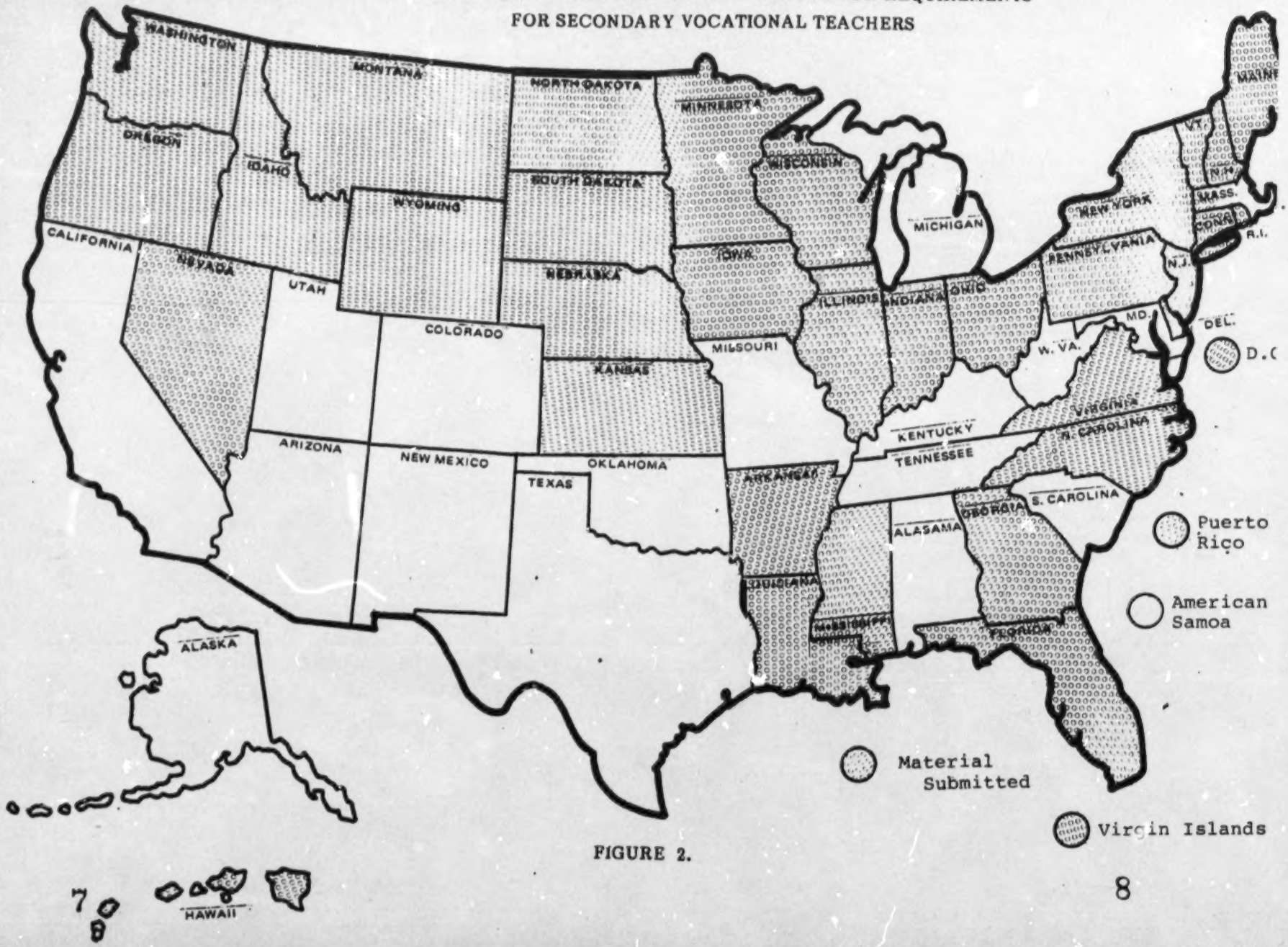

FIGURE 2.

Summarization of Responses

While the request for information was intended to identify state requirements for certification of vocational teachers in postsecondary programs, many of the respondents provided material regarding certification of vocational teachers in secondary programs; the lack in many states of clear delineation between secondary and postsecondary vocational education was evident. In many cases, both secondary and postsecondary vocational offerings are taught in the same institution. When certification is required for programs receiving federal vocational education assistance, the requirement for certification is generally applied to all teachers in those institutions. 36 respondents reported certification requirements for secondary vocational education teachers and 34 of these provided material related to the certification/recertification criteria and/or procedures. Figure 2 shows these respondents; further information regarding any of this material may be obtained from the Network Office.

- ERIC

One respondent noted that guidelines for certification of vocational teachers and all teacher education standards for each state should be found in ERIC.

- Council of State Governments

One respondent reported that the Council of State Governments maintains a comprehensive data base on certification and licensing requirements for many occupations including vocational education.

National Studies of Vocational Teacher Certification

Three respondents provided references to external sources of information on vocational teacher certification requirements, as follows:

- Personnel Development Notebook

  A notebook has recently been compiled and distributed by an office within the U. S. Department of Education, which presents the vocational education teacher certification requirements for all states and territories. Information was collected and reported in five major categories:

  1. relevant education
  2. special (or specific) courses
  3. relevant occupational experience
  4. teaching experience
  5. license

  Because of the recent publication of this comprehensive document, this report will not attempt to reproduce the results; rather, reference is made to the publishing office:

  Personnel Development Branch
  Office of Vocational and Adult Education
  U. S. Department of Education
  Room 5640 ROB #3
  Washington, D. C. 20202

Certification of Postsecondary Vocational Teachers

The following sections relate to information provided by states regarding certification of postsecondary vocational teachers in proprietary institutions, public vocational-technical institutions, and community colleges. For the 17 states reporting certification requirements for at least one postsecondary sector, a brief summary of those requirements is included.

Proprietary Institution Vocational Teachers

Only three states indicated a requirement for certification of teachers in proprietary institutions. Wyoming's teacher requirements are in conjunction with the requirements for private school licensing. Georgia has no formal state certification requirement, but has special qualifying criteria according to the type of institution and teaching field. Arkansas has specific requirements for the various fields in conjunction with proprietary school licensing. In addition to these three, Arizona reported that most proprietary schools follow the practices of the appropriate national accrediting agency; undoubtedly, this occurs in other states as well.

Postsecondary Vocational-Technical Institution Teachers

Ten respondents indicated requirements for teachers in postsecondary education vocational-technical institutions separate from secondary requirements or apart from certification of teachers in programs funded with federal vocational education assistance. Alabama, Colorado, Georgia, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, and South Dakota, all provided material related to the requirements. Iowa and North Dakota reported that certification was required in certain programs only; they also provided related material. In addition to these ten, Arkansas and Montana indicated that their certification requirements for teachers in postsecondary programs were related to the requirements for teachers in federally funded programs.

Community College Vocational Teachers

Eight respondents reported state certification requirements for vocational teachers in community colleges, and all provided material related to the criteria and/or procedures for certification/recertification. Georgia indicated requirements only for certain institutions and programs, and Montana's requirements are only for federally funded programs. Others reporting certification requirements were Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Texas, Virginia, and Washington.

INDIVIDUAL STATE REQUIREMENTS

Alabama

Faculty certification is required for the Alabama State Technical Colleges. Certification level is tied to salary, and is based on occupational work experience, formal education attainment, and other evidence of achievement.

Arizona

Community colleges have a well-defined certification process. Requirements include academic degrees, related occupational work experience, and a "community college" course. Special exceptions are permitted. Proprietary institutions generally follow the qualifications of the appropriate accrediting organization.

Arkansas

There is no state law for certification of postsecondary vocational teachers except when they also teach in secondary programs, which requires certification. Community colleges do not participate in federal vocational funds and teachers are not specifically certified; however, they have minimum standards emphasizing formal training. Proprietary schools are subject to state licensing requirements which include teaching requirements in specific programs. In all areas, there is no recertification requirement.

Colorado

Colorado requires a "vocational credential" for teachers in all types of institutions in "vocationally-reimbursed" programs. There are specific requirements for various fields, and these requirements include degree attainment with required courses and occupational experience. Certification is subject to periodic renewal.

Georgia

For proprietary schools, no state certification is required; however, certain qualifying criteria must be met depending on whether the institution is degree granting or non-degree granting. Schools approved by state licensing boards in particular fields may have additional licensing requirements for their teachers. There are state certification and recertification requirements for teachers in postsecondary vocational-technical schools and in those public community colleges under contract with the State Board of Education to provide vocational-technical programs. Certification criteria include degree attainment, appropriate licenses, and related work experience.

Iowa

Certification is required for teaching in a vocational or technical field in an area vocational school, area community college, or public community college. Degree requirements vary, depending on the level of certification. Work experience and specific course work may also be required, and some certificates are subject to renewal. The various fields have specific requirements identified.

Louisiana

Teachers are not certified in the two-year colleges; however, certification is required for postsecondary vocational-technical teaching. Requirements include combinations of educational attainment and work experience and appropriate license, and certificates must be renewed until a minimum number of professional vocational education credits from approved universities has been achieved.

Minnesota

Licensure is required for teachers of postsecondary vocational education. Criteria vary by field, but generally include relevant education, occupational experience and special courses. Licenses are subject to renewal.

Mississippi

Teachers in postsecondary vocational programs must obtain a state license, subject to periodic renewal. Criteria vary by program, and include requirements for degrees, work experience, and special coursework.

Montana

Certification is required for teaching in programs eligible for federal or state reimbursement in post-high schools,vocational-technical schools, community colleges, or junior colleges. Criteria must include appropriate degree, coursework, and/or work experience. Recertification requirements include successful teaching experience and additional educational attainment.

Nebraska

While official certification is not required for postsecondary teachers, "status" certificates are issued for trade and industrial education teachers, and letters of approval are required for all others. Requirements for other than part-time teaching include at least two years of occupational experience in the field and nine hours of vocational education coursework.

North Dakota

North Dakota requires certification of trade, technical, and health instructors if they are teaching in programs for which a postsecondary institution is receiving funds from the State Board of Vocational Education. Requirements include work experience, appropriate license, and vocational teacher education credits.

South Dakota

Postsecondary vocational instructors must meet credential standards which vary by field, and include degree requirements and work experience. Renewal of the credential may be required, and is granted upon completion of course or work credits every five years.

Texas

State approval of vocational education instructors in public junior/community colleges must be obtained. A statement of qualifications must be submitted for each instructor hired. These qualifications vary by field and include degrees in specific fields, work experience, and sometimes previous teaching experience.

Virginia

The Community College System maintains guidelines for academic preparation of faculty, including those teaching in occupational programs. Requirements include a baccalaureate degree or occupational training and work experiences.

Washington

Standards and criteria are established for vocational instructors in the community college system and in the public vocational-technical institutes. In both systems, vocational personnel must show evidence of appropriate study and/or expertise as a practitioner in their appropriate teaching field, among other qualifications, and have evidence of related work experience. Varying renewal periods are required depending on level of certificate. Instructors in community colleges are certified by the community college under minimum requirements established by the State Community College Board. In VTI's the instructors must be certified by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. In both cases criteria are in accord with the state plan for vocational education.

Wyoming

Within the requirements for licensing of all private schools, including trade, technical, vocational, correspondence, and business schools, is a requirement for showing evidence of appropriate educational and experience background of all instructors.

APPENDIX A

Request for Information

MEMORANDUM

February 18, 1981

TO: SHEEO/NCES Communication Network Representatives

FROM: Jane N. Ryland

SUBJECT: Request for Information on Certification of Vocational Teachers

Certification and/or recertification criteria for vocational teachers in community colleges, area vocational schools, proprietary schools, and technical schools is a question of concern. The criteria for certification and/or recertification and a brief description of national trends toward or away from such certification and/or recertification are under study by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education. If any study has been initiated related to the development of such information on national trends, we would appreciate receiving a copy. In any case, we would appreciate receiving a copy of criteria used in your state for certification and/or recertification of vocational teachers, and any existing information related to certification/recertification procedures.

Please send any material which you might have available related to this question, by March 16, 1981, to

Jane N. Ryland
Network Director
SHEEO/NCES Communication Network
737 29th Street
Boulder, Colorado 80303

A summary of state responses will be prepared and sent to all the states.

Once again, we are requesting only existing material related to this question, and do not wish to burden you with special preparation of a response. If no material is available, a statement to that effect would be appreciated. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.